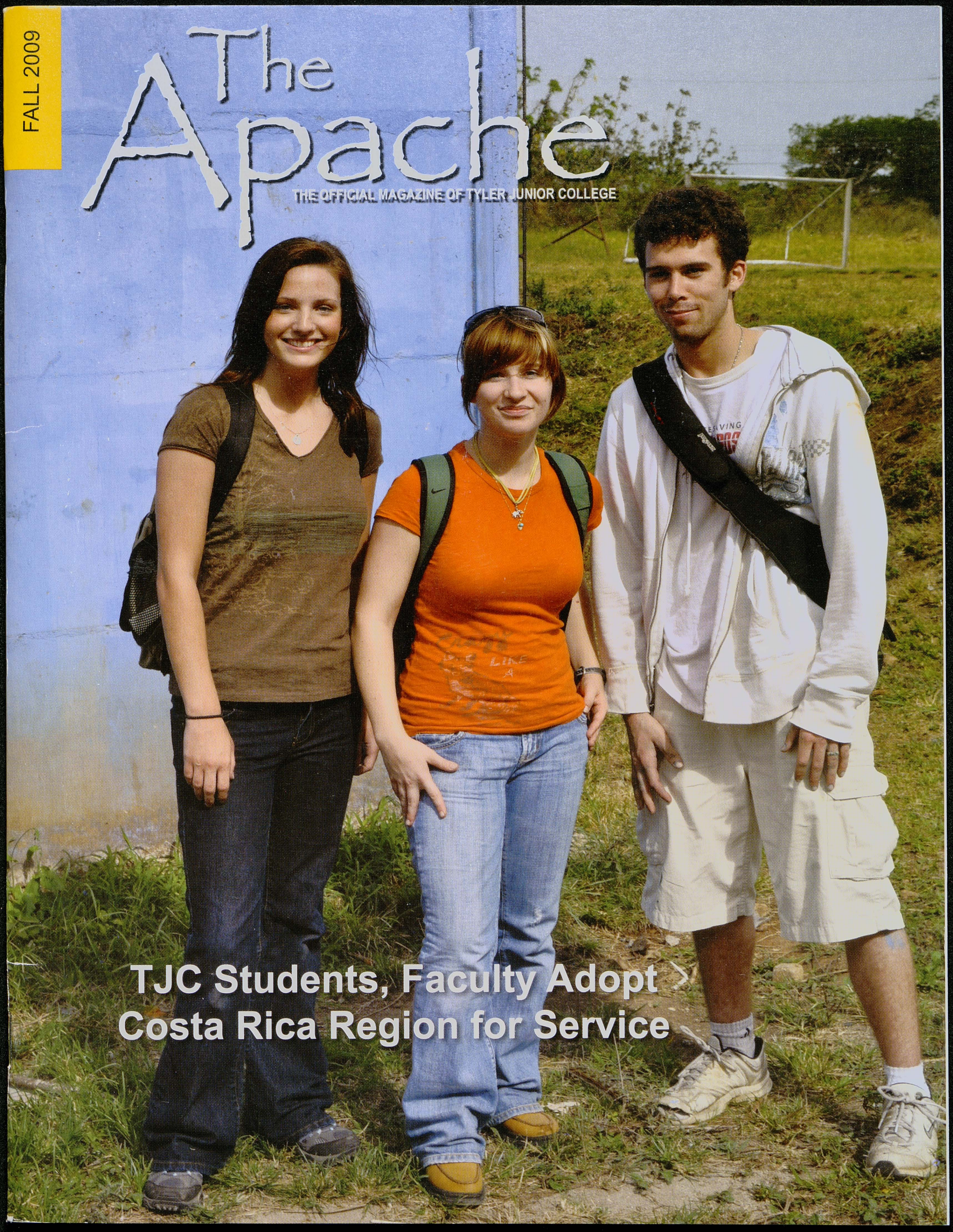


FALL 2009

# The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

**TJC Students, Faculty Adopt  
Costa Rica Region for Service**





# The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

VOL. XXV, NO. 2 FALL 2009

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TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



CHANGING LIVES

# Calendar of EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 5

*Choir Concert*

First Presbyterian Church of Tyler,  
7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 18-22

*Theatre TJC: Moonlight Serenade*

Jean Browne Theatre

7:30 p.m. (except for Sunday's lone  
performance, a 2 p.m. matinee)

## NOVEMBER 20, 21

*Pops Concert*

Wise Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 23

*Percussion Ensemble Concert*

Wise Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 24

*Wind Ensemble Concert*

Wise Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER 1

*Jazz Ensembles Concert*

Jean Browne Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER 2

*Choir Christmas Concert*

Marvin United Methodist Church in  
Tyler, Noon

## DECEMBER 4 - 6

*The Nutcracker ballet*

Wise Auditorium, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 24 - 27, 2010

*Spring Musical: Singing  
in the Rain*

Wise Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## MARCH 25 - 27

*Apache Belles Spring Show*

Wise Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

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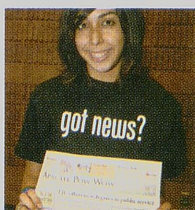


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Students, Faculty, Community Benefit from Costa Rica Project

## COVER PICTURE:

Marie Sharp, Casey Phillips and Nicholas Meyers were among 11 students who worked with and became friends with residents of northern Costa Rica, where TJC President Dr. Mike Metke served in the Peace Corps as a youth.

A return service project trip is planned for May 2010.

See story on Page 22.

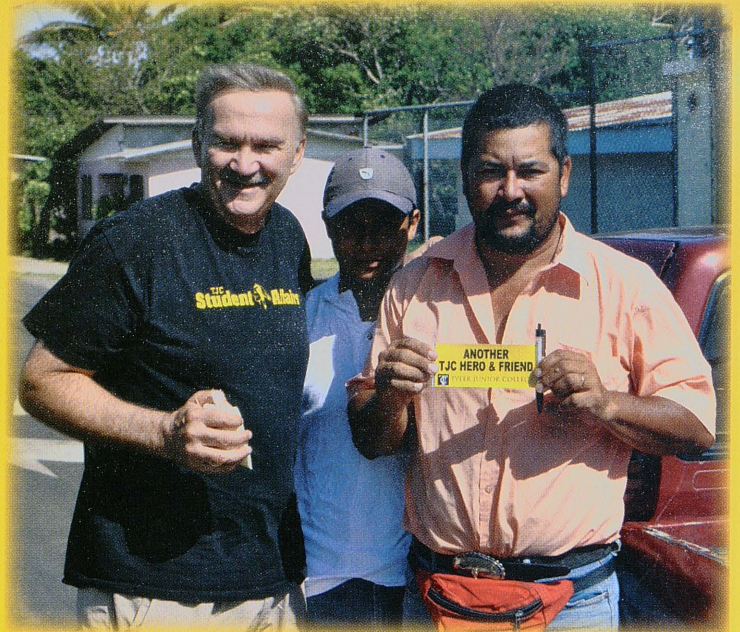
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# We're Surrounded By Heroes and Friends

By Dr. Mike Metke  
President



To celebrate the many successful alumni and friends of TJC, I asked faculty and staff to pose for photos with TJC "heroes and friends" with a "heroes and friends pen." Here is just a small sampling of the photos collected. Clockwise, is staff member Shelia Holmes with boxer and evangelist George Foreman (who wrote two columns for us); me with Freddy Rodriguez and his work partner at Quebrada Grande, Costa Rica; Dean of Continuing Studies Dr. Aubrey Sharpe with alumnus and noted restaurateur Bernard Gautier; Professor Gigi Delk with her son, Ryan; and me with Professor John Hays and Wilberth Brizuela Chavarria, a dairyman in northern Costa Rica.



One of the most remarkable things about TJC is how much it has impacted the lives of people throughout East Texas. Everywhere I go, I meet people who tell me they credit being who they are today to attending TJC. They tell me that TJC broadened their minds, lifted their spirits, and helped them discover what they could become. Some of these stories were very moving, many made me smile, and all made me proud to be your president. I thought that others would enjoy these stories as much as I have so we decided to start a series of newspaper columns: TJC Heroes and Friends.

The series began with my good friend, Dr. Rod Mabry, the president of The University of Texas at Tyler. No, Rod didn't go to TJC, but he tells me the transfer students his institution receives from TJC perform at a high level and make up a significant portion of the total enrollment at the university. Rod also knows the value of a community college, having attended one himself in the days long before he had any notion of pursuing a career in higher education.

Other columns have featured State Senator Kevin Eltife, who recalls that several members of his family attended TJC and that he has always treasured the institution. The remaining columns thus far have featured recent graduates, successful alumni and friends of the College.

I hope you enjoy reading about these "heroes and friends." You can read all of the columns on our Web site, [www.tjc.edu](http://www.tjc.edu).

### **Brigadier General James K. "Red" Brown**

I first visited the Tyler area over 30 years ago when I was a freshman at Texas A&M University, and since that visit I always wanted to live here. In 1999, we purchased a small business in Tyler, and I was finally able to relocate to East Texas. Shortly after we purchased the business, my National Guard unit was mobilized for

service as a stabilization force in Bosnia and I had to wait to actually live in the area. ...

When I returned from Bosnia to our new home in Lindale, I immediately became involved in the community. I ran for and was elected to the school board. Lindale ISD's dual credit program with Tyler Junior College especially interested me. The program enables our students to gain credit toward both high school and college diplomas simultaneously.

It has been great for our academically gifted students and it has helped lift our students to top levels statewide.

I also have a keen interest in technical education, as not everyone wants or needs an academic degree. In fact, our country has an oversupply of four-year liberal arts graduates while we have a shortage of people in high demand technical fields. Lindale ISD began working with TJC to expand both dual credit academic programs and dual credit technical programs and during this process is where I really got to know the exceptional educators and administrators from TJC. They have been great partners and are helping us produce outstanding citizens by offering programs of the highest quality.

This partnership has been an awakening for me. I originally was not a proponent of students beginning their post-secondary studies at a junior college. I personally followed high school by going straight to a four-year university and so did our two oldest daughters. After my recent experiences with TJC, I am convinced that TJC is absolutely the best route to success after high school. The professors are focused on teaching and mentoring the students. The



**Brig. Gen. James Brown**

TJC students do not get a teaching assistant who is working on a master's degree.

They get experienced and dedicated professors that hold master and doctoral degrees from the finest universities. The students are placed immediately in classes with limited enrollment where passionate instructors know their names and care about their future.

The quality of education offered at TJC is phenomenal and I have had the opportunity to observe this first hand. I now encourage my youngest daughter to plan on attending TJC immediately after her high school graduation. I believe the professionals at TJC will do an exceptional job of preparing her to succeed at the university she attends, and in whatever field she chooses. ...

TJC is helping us make Lindale the best place to raise and educate our children. The College has become part of our Lindale "extended family" by offering the courses and skills needed by those desiring to enhance their skills or change their lives, and ultimately build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

*Brigadier General James K. "Red" Brown received his military commission from Texas A&M University in May of 1980. He holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies and is a graduate of the Army War College. Key assignments have included Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil Military Affairs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Command of the 56th Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He commanded over 4,000 soldiers in Iraq. General Brown's military awards include the Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge awarded in Iraq, the Legion of Merit, six Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals and numerous other awards. Brown is president and managing partner of Texas Water Systems and Ameri-Tex Drilling Company in Tyler. He is President of the Lindale Independent School District Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Lindale Economic Development Corporation, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of East Texas and Lindale Area Chamber.*

(continued on next page)



## Krystal Persall

My entire outlook on life changed in February 2008. My dad had a massive heart attack and actually flat-lined while attendants worked on him. After bringing him back to life, the crew moved him for emergency heart surgery. I felt helpless and disappointed at myself because I wasn't able to help.

Soon thereafter, my mother was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. She chose to have a double mastectomy to avoid problems with the cancer spreading. However, after the surgery, doctors discovered the cancer had already spread to other parts of her body. Once again, I felt helpless and overwhelmed.

I have known since I was a little girl that I wanted to be a nurse, but after I completed high school and the real world set in, I kept finding more and more reasons to put my dreams on hold. My parents' health problems made me re-think what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.

As soon as I could, I began the process of applying for admission to the licensed vocational nursing program at Tyler Junior College, but I didn't

know how I could do it. Being a single parent and having my parents in and out of the hospital weekly, the pressure mounted, and I began to wonder how I would be able to work to pay bills and feed my daughter, commute two hours daily from Rusk to Tyler to attend classes, and find a babysitter – not to mention how to meet other obligations that are required of a student in nursing school.

I prayed for a miracle. I knew my prayers had been answered when I was informed that TJC was opening a nursing program in Jacksonville. I could pursue my career as a nurse and help take care



Krystal Persall

of my parents and many people just like them. I did my best in the application process and, to my joy, I was accepted. ...

On August 1, I graduated from the TJC Licensed Vocational Nursing program. It was a challenge but I finished with a

**“The TJC-Jacksonville nursing program has been an answer to so many of my prayers.”**

perfect grade-point average. If TJC, Trinity Mother Frances, East Texas Medical Center and Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation hadn't worked so hard last year to make the program possible, I would have missed out on so many important things. Commuting to Tyler would have made it impossible for me to be with my mother during chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Because of TJC-Jacksonville, I have also been able to spend time with my daughter and be home when she gets off the bus every afternoon.

The TJC-Jacksonville nursing program has been an answer to so many of my prayers. On behalf of my family and myself, I hope to personally thank each and every person involved in making my dreams of being a nurse come true. ...

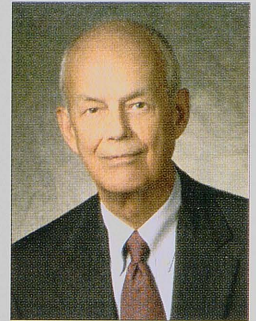
*Krystal Persall was among a class of 19 to complete the TJC-Jacksonville Licensed Vocational Nursing program in August. Krystal graduated with a 4.0 GPA and has been offered employment by Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Skyview/Hodge unit in Rusk as a licensed vocational nurse, following successful completion of the state licensing examination. Her classmates are also considering job offers, planning to continue their education, or do both. TJC is proud of Krystal and the rest of her graduating class.*

## Bob Inman

For me, America's greatest strength is in its unique system of public education. Unlike the aristocracies of Europe, our founding fathers aspired to create a coun-

try in which anyone, regardless of wealth or family name, could rise up in society through their own energy, determination and hard work. They created a system of public education as the cornerstone that would enable any American to exercise his or her unalienable rights to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

As a college freshman riding a bus from Mineola to Tyler Junior College every day, I didn't have many profound thoughts about public education and what it could mean for my future. I worried more about being 94 pounds, 5'6" tall and 15 years old in classes with football players and World War II veterans coming to school on the G.I. bill. I just hoped none of them would beat me up. ...



Bob Inman

TJC had very strong academic programs that set it apart. TJC Dean E.M. Potter and teachers like Eileen Brandenburg took me under their wings and became mentors and friends. TJC prepared me well for the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from UT just in time for the Korean War and as a prime candidate for the draft, I decided to be a “draft dodger” by attending the Navy's Officer Candidate School. I planned to fulfill my three year military obligation and then get on with my life. I was commissioned at age 20 and was given opportunities at a young age that most never have in a lifetime. At 22, I was stationed in Paris on a Joint Staff. By age 41, I was Director of Naval Intelligence. President Ford appointed me as the youngest Three Star Admiral in peacetime history to be Vice Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1976. ...

My final assignment as a Naval Officer came from President Reagan as Deputy

(continued on next page)



Director of the Central Intelligence. Along with that job I got my fourth star. I retired from the Navy and began my civilian career in July 1982.

In 1984 Secretary of State George Shultz asked me to chair a committee on security threats to our embassies and I agreed as long as it would be non-partisan. The bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut gave it urgency. Although I hate that our embassies no longer look like the ones I was stationed at, I am proud that our recommendations were implemented and as a result, no U.S. citizen has ever been killed in a U.S. Embassy built to our specifications. ...

I have been blessed in so many ways and I count TJC as one of those blessings. ... TJC gave us a good start on the way to our chance at the American dream. I believe that education is still that pathway to a better life and that TJC and other public colleges and universities (especially those with a Longhorn mascot!), help build brighter futures for us all. ...

### **Louie Allred**

Before graduation from Arp High School, I was offered a full scholarship to UCLA in California, based on my SAT test score. It was a multiple choice test and I was sure I must have guessed lucky. I wasn't ready to leave the area and I wasn't prepared for a big school. I decided that Tyler Junior College could give me a good background, and it did. Like for so many others, Tyler Junior College was the gateway to a bigger world and the beginning of the rest of my life.

After college, I worked in the oil business where I met Joanne who was the company secretary but knew more about the business than just about anybody. We fell in love 44 years ago and still are in love, even after all the ups and downs we went through buying and selling various businesses. We borrowed money to get into the restaurant business and motel

business. Before long, we owned five Terry's restaurants and seven Coachlight Motels. Soon, "Jo" and I had 600 employees and were working what seemed like 24/7. We sold it all when I was age 32 and I went fishing every day, but early retirement just wasn't for me. ... I got back into business and haven't fished again and don't plan to ever retire.

Starting at TJC, I can testify that you can go anywhere you want to in life and have a wonderful time along the way. I haven't always made money but I've had more fun than ought to be legal. We've probably bought and sold dozens of businesses and been involved in hundreds of business deals. I've had a number of international businesses ranging from flying in fresh flowers from China and Columbia to importing oil from Mexico and coal from Columbia. I've had a tool and die business, an oil field equipment business and agri-businesses in Central America. ...

Over the years, I found myself on the sidelines of some big events. ... In fact, I've had a lot of adventures in business and plenty of misadventures, too. Because of my international business dealings, some of which have involved presidents and premiers, I've been asked by different operatives to help with their projects, most of which I've declined. Nevertheless, some years ago, when the CIA and DEA were involved with the anti-Sandinista forces in Central America, I nearly got into the airplane business.

I've always considered myself a patriot, so when they needed to buy six more of the cargo planes the CIA was using, I agreed to help and didn't ask questions. I had businesses in Central America and a relationship with a German bank that



**Louie Allred**

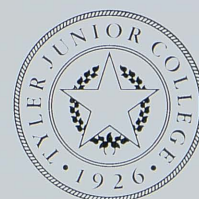
could be used to purchase the planes. The bank needed a history for this "airline company" so there were some delays.

I told my contact to create the necessary history and paperwork to finalize the deal. Then on Oct. 5, 1986, Sandanista soldiers, using a Soviet SA-7 missile supplied by Cuba, shot down the CIA's C-123k cargo plane over Nicaragua and the lone survivor of the crash spilled the beans. I hadn't really known what was going on, but as the news came out and almost tore apart a presidency, I decided it would be a good time to stay a few extra months in Panama at my business headquarters before coming back home!

Just when our businesses were flourishing, our faith was tested 21 years ago when Jo was diagnosed with incurable cancer. Doctors said she was filled with cancer and at most would live five months. We are both strong Christians and Jo must have been on every prayer list in town. I learned everything I could about cancer and developed an anti-cancer regimen and diet. I stayed home for a year to prepare her meals and do all I could to help. Now, 21 years later, I know I was witness to a miracle. We've had a grand life together and hope to have many more years together.

But I never forget that, there at the start when I was a young person wanting to venture out in the world, TJC helped educate me, shape my values and become who and what I am. I'm a proud TJC alumnus and pleased that TJC is still the gateway to dreams and adventures for anyone with the desire and determination to go after them.

*Louie is a Tyler-based businessman and entrepreneur whose business interests have stretched across the United States and the globe.*





# ON Campus

## CLAYTON ALLEN NEW DEAN OF APPLIED STUDIES

The challenges for Tyler Junior College Dean of Applied Studies Dr. Clayton Allen are clear: evaluate the College's academic offerings in technical and work force programs, provide improvement where necessary and listen to the community.

Allen joined TJC as dean in late August and has been meeting with associate deans Dr. Thomas Johnson and Jeff Parks to assess the school's programs and processes.

"We must continually look at our existing programs," Dr. Allen said, adding that advisory committees do an excellent job of letting academic department chairs know when adjustments in curriculum are needed.

Allen said he also wishes to work closely with TJC continuing education to offer what the community needs in terms of work force skills development and training.

"We'll continue to see double-digit increases in enrollment as long as we're responsive to what the community needs," he said.

Allen said he will work with the East Texas Council of Governments, local economic development boards and local chambers of commerce to make certain TJC is providing the quality of training and the curricula needed most.

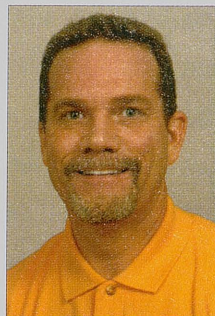
Allen asked that federal Perkins Grant funds control for TJC be moved to the



**Dr. Clayton Allen**



**Jeff Parks**



**Dr. Tom Johnson**

School of Applied Studies, since Perkins grant funding is intended to assist work force preparation. The next grant application process will begin in the spring, Allen said.

He said the College should be prepared to add programs if the community's needs demand it, but he acknowledged that external funding through grants could be essential for adding programs that might require significant start-up costs.

Allen said he and Dr. Thomas Johnson, associate dean, public affairs careers, and Jeff Parks, associate dean, industry and technologies, are poised to increase the number of students enrolled in applied studies career fields. This fall, the school set an enrollment record, he said.

The School of Applied Studies includes degree and certificate studies in: air conditioning and refrigeration, automotive technology, business management, bookkeeping, child development, criminal justice, law enforcement investigation, computer information systems, computer security, networking technology, PC support specialist, WAN internetworking (CISCO), engineering design technology, gaming and simulation development, gaming and simulation programming/graphics, graphic arts, photography, human resource development, medical office management, office technology, paralegal, professional tennis management, surveying and map-

ping technology and welding technology.

Allen previously served as associate dean of the school of human resource development and technology at The University of Texas at Tyler.

He received a doctorate in supervision, curriculum and instruction with a community college emphasis and a minor in technology, a master's degree in technology and a bachelor's degree in technology from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

## COLLEGE'S WEB SITE TO GET FRESH LOOK

Looks aren't everything; but when it comes to grabbing the attention of potential students, the look of a college's Web site can mean the difference between a passing glance and a meaningful relationship.

"More and more we are seeing that a prospective student's first 'visit' to any college isn't to the college itself but to its Web site," said Joel Renaud, TJC business intelligence manager and chair of a redesign committee formed to lead the project.

"The home page of our Web site is often our first point of contact - our virtual front door - with everyone from new students to parents to the community at large, and we have an obligation to make a great first impression and make it easy to navigate."

The College recently contracted with BarkleyREI, an award-winning digital marketing firm, to reimagine and redesign the College's Web site.

Based in Pittsburgh, Pa., Barkley specializes in tourism, consumer, higher education and non-profit Web site design and advertising. Among the company's client list are Yale University, Wake Forest, Rutgers, Vanderbilt University, Pima College and Northern Virginia Community College.



## ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH AT 11,052

The fall enrollment at TJC reached an all-time record – surpassing the highest total in the College’s 83-year history.

Documents to be submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board showed a preliminary, uncertified enrollment total of 11,052.

The total represents a 10-percent increase over last year’s reporting day total.

“Our growth can be attributed to the hard work of our faculty and staff and to the value and quality of what TJC has to offer,” said TJC President Dr. Mike Metke.

Dr. Metke said other factors included growth seen at TJC-Lindale and TJC-Jacksonville. This fall, a licensed vocational nursing program was added to the TJC-Lindale facility, where other credit and continuing education courses are also taught. TJC-Jacksonville offers a licensed vocational nursing program as well as a LVN-to-associate degree nursing program.

“Nationwide, there has been tremendous growth in enrollment among community colleges because community colleges are affordable, they’re close to home and they provide basic core curriculum classes that transfer to a university,” he said. “In addition, community colleges are preparing graduates in technical and health profession programs and putting them to work.

“At TJC, we believe the enrollment growth is largely because of the College’s reputation for fulfilling our three promises of a quality education, a vibrant student life and community service.”

The fall total breaks the previous record, set in the fall of 2008 when the College had a total uncertified census day head count of 10,011.



Brent Smith



Steve Campbell

## CAMPBELL HEADS TJC POLICE ACADEMY; FIRE PROGRAM ADDED

The College has added a fire science component to its curriculum. The program will offer continuing education, a basic fire academy, and a fire science degree program.

Brent Smith, managing director of the fire science program, said a basic fire academy will allow someone who completes the academy and passes the state certification exam to seek employment as a paid fire fighter.

The continuing education program will offer training to area volunteer firefighters needed to gain certification as well as higher levels of certification with the State Fireman’s and Fire Marshal’s Association.

“We will also offer programs for firefighters to become certified as a fire instructor, fire inspector, fire investigator, and officer training,” Smith said.

“I am extremely excited about the addition of this new program at Tyler Junior College. I think that it is a great opportunity for us to reach out to the fire service community in training those who give so much to our communities. It is going to be a great opportunity to get everyone in Smith County and the surrounding counties conducting in joint training together.

The degree program was deactivated several years ago but the need for training in fire science has grown, as has expecta-

tions from fire departments to provide advancement opportunities, he said.

“Times are different now than what they were when the program was deactivated. More and more departments are asking their personnel to have degrees, in order for advancement opportunities.”

Smith holds an associate’s degree in fire science from TJC and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from LeTourneau University. He is certified to teach emergency medical services, fire and police protection courses. Smith recently earned certification as a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards Education (TCLEOSE) instructor.

Smith said that it is Dr. Tom Johnson’s goal to develop joint training with EMS, police and fire students “so that each student has an understanding of what each field does,” Smith said.

Smith joined TJC in August. He will be working closely with Dr. Steve Campbell, who was named director of the TJC Police Academy earlier in the year when Johnson was named associate dean of public service.

Campbell, professor/managing director of the TJC Law Enforcement Academy, holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in criminal justice from Dallas Baptist University as well as a master’s degree in education from Texas A&M-Commerce and a doctorate in public administration from Kennedy-Western University.

“The TJC Law Enforcement Academy provides the State of Texas with well trained and physically fit peace officers who are second to none,” Campbell said.

The Police Academy provides certification training for many law enforcement agencies through East Texas.



# ON Campus

## BOARD OKS FUNDS TO TACKLE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

In the coming months the main and west campuses of the College will be working on improvements to infrastructure, thanks to a maintenance tax bond issue and a special fund approved by the Board of Trustees this fall.

The maintenance tax will go into effect in September 2010 to repay bonded indebtedness of \$24.5 million. The bonds carry a low interest rate of 2.478 percent and will provide money that can be used to address critical infrastructure needs.

Projects to be addressed during the year include replacement of water loops that supply warm and cool air to the main campus, the replacement of air-moving equipment and electrical improvements that are intended to help the College operate more efficiently.

Some of the air-handling equipment that will be replaced is as old as 45 years and represents the era when air conditioning first was supplied to TJC.

Burying overhead power lines along Baxter Avenue will also improve efficiency. Power outages as a result of aging lines and transformers routinely cause interruptions in electrical service to the main campus, sometimes forcing the cancellation of classes.

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke became aware of the infrastructure issues in the spring. He delivered presentations to the Board of Trustees and various groups throughout Tyler, including the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce to invite input.

"In talking with people in the community, we were told over and over, 'you need to preserve the assets with which you've been entrusted,'" Metke said.



Physical plant worker Monroe Jett looks over a collection of scrapped hot and chilled water loop parts following one of many repairs.

"In talking with people  
in the community, we  
were told over and over,  
'you need to preserve  
the assets with which  
you've been entrusted.'"

The TJC president proposed that the College create a College Preservation Fund so that the institution would never again face a similar need for large expenditures on infrastructure.

To create the fund, the Board approved a small increase in the property tax rate to .136950 per \$100 valuation. The additional revenue will cost the average Smith County homeowner roughly \$15 more in taxes during the current year. It is estimated that the maintenance tax note to be implemented in 2010 will cost the average county homeowner an additional \$43 per

year. It will not go into effect until the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Homeowners with exemptions, including those age 65 or more, will not feel any tax rate increase as a result of the bonds or preservation fund.

Metke thanked Lindale Independent School District Board Chair James "Red" Brown for his suggestion that the College implement a maintenance tax rate.

"General 'Red' Brown has been a leader in this project and really invaluable to our efforts to address these infrastructure problems," he said.

Physical Plant Director Bill King said the majority of work will take place in 2010 and could take several months.

Visitors, faculty and staff are asked to pardon a little dust while the College makes critical upgrades.

Bids for the first phases of the work were sought in October.





## TJC-LINDALE NUMBERS JUMP WITH ADDITION OF NURSING

The nationwide increase in students attending community colleges this fall is being felt in Lindale, Texas.

TJC-Lindale opened in the summer of 2008 to serve northern Smith County and surrounding Wood and Van Zandt counties.

This fall, the addition of a new licensed vocational nursing program has contributed to the site's success.

TJC-Lindale had a college credit enrollment of 103 students, which includes 20 full-time students in the LVN program.

In addition to credit classes at the facility, TJC-Lindale is offering a wide range of continuing education courses, from computer basics to art.

Lindale residents have certainly not been a stranger to TJC. Lindale High School has been one of the regional leaders in encouraging students to take dual credit courses.

This fall, 14 dual credit classes were being offered to Lindale High School students for a total enrollment of 190.

"Our relationship with the Lindale community is growing stronger each day," said TJC Dean of Continuing Studies Dr. Aubrey Sharpe, who supervises the TJC-Lindale site. "We are pleased at the enrollment and the interest that has been shown for courses in Lindale. It is a terrific partnership."

TJC-Lindale is the result of a partnership with the Lindale Economic Development Corporation and the Lindale Independent School District.

The site is located on U.S. 69, less than a mile north of Interstate 20.



**JACKSONVILLE PARTNERSHIP LVN GRADUATES** - Jacksonville graduates posed with Dean Paul Monagan, center, and instructors for a photograph to be used in a billboard ad near Jacksonville. Pictured are: (front row, left to right), Shane Vinson, Shelton Benton, Juwonna Ervin, Sydnie Cox, Jeremy Jackson, Zackery Tussing; (second row, left to right) Professor Beryl Thompson, Lakethia Bowens, Kay Miller, Anna Beth Reid-Vance, Dean Paul Monagan, Nicole Johnson, Professor Mauretta "Cissy" Lux, Professor Kimberly Beathard; (back row, left to right) Karen Menefee, Amber Garner, Veronica Trujillo, Charity McGowan, Krystal Persall, Margaret Patterson, Brittany Taylor and Kimberly Urquiza. Not pictured is Lakeesha Jenkins.

## TJC-JACKSONVILLE PRODUCES FIRST PARTNERSHIP GRADS

The College held a celebration luncheon July 31 to mark the completion of the first class of licensed vocational nursing students since a joint partnership was established a year ago.

The 19 graduating students were joined by about 75 representatives from the partnership entities: Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation, East Texas Medical Center, Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics and TJC.

"This group of graduates will be out and working and in that first year will earn close to a million dollars in salaries that will be put back into the community," TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said.

The partnership that led to the program's creation began with meetings among the parties in February 2008. Within six months, a 4,500-square-foot facility inside ETMC Jacksonville had been renovated, three faculty members assigned and a part-time staff member hired.

Trinity Mother Frances and the Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation provided funding for the program while ETMC paid for renovation of a large portion of the fourth floor of its Jacksonville hospital, turning the space into a state-of-the-art classroom center.

"This has been a wonderful partnership," Dr. Metke said.

The first class of associate degree nursing graduates will be pinned at the completion of their studies in December.



## COLLEGE OPENS NEW UT TYLER TRANSFER CENTER

TJC and The University of Texas at Tyler welcomed a new transfer center on the TJC campus recently and signed articulation and transfer agreements aimed at helping students complete a four-year degree.

The transfer center is located in Jenkins Hall and is jointly staffed by both institutions. It is also home to a grant-funded College Connection program.

The two institutions have completed program equivalency guides between nine academic programs. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the office was held in early September.

Through the articulation agreements, students will have a clear roadmap of what courses to complete at TJC during their freshman and sophomore years as well as a clear list of the remaining courses required from UT Tyler during their junior and seniors years leading to the completion of a bachelor's degree, officials said.

"I'm pleased that we are working even more closely with UT Tyler and its fine leaders," said TJC President Dr. Mike Metke. "President Rod Mabry and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Peter Fos are terrific colleagues who are committed to offering programs of the highest quality and to making sure our TJC students can seamlessly transfer into their baccalaureate programs. Our provost, Dr. 'Butch' Hayes, shares my high regard for our UT counterparts and we are both excited about these new opportunities for our students."

TJC provides more transfer students to UT Tyler each year than any other college.



TJC President Dr. Mike Metke and Dr. Rod Mabry, right, president of The University of Texas at Tyler, sign articulation agreements recently.

## COLLEGE CONNECTION AIMS TO HELP PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Thanks to a federal grant issued through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TJC is working with high schools throughout East Texas to increase participation in higher education among target populations.

The College Connection program – based in the Transfer Center in Jenkins Hall, on the TJC Main campus – is the result of an initial \$84,000 grant received in January. The College Connection program is intended to target students who have the academic potential for completing a four-year degree but who: would be the first in their family to attend college; reside in a low socio-economic environment; are academically underprepared; have limited English proficiency; are minorities; or are otherwise disadvantaged.

"The purpose of the grant is to provide advising and counseling services to high school seniors on their high school campuses, free of charge," said Kaye Morriss,

coordinator of the program. "This includes assistance with applications to any college or university, financial aid applications and college readiness assessments."

Morriss said the program administered college readiness assessments to 413 students in the months of May and June. Of those, 285 applied to Tyler Junior College.

"In this economy, kids need to know the value of going to college and of getting a degree," said Dr. Katie Preast, executive director of curriculum and instruction with the Troup Independent School District. "In the past, getting 50 percent of your graduating high school seniors to go on to college was good. In today's times, it's got to be a lot higher than that. It helps to do everything we can to make connections to let these kids know they can succeed at the college level."

The program serves seven school districts and eight high schools: Robert E Lee, John Tyler, Jacksonville, Chapel Hill, Lindale, Troup, Arp and New Summerfield.



## CIRCLE OF HONOR WELCOMES SEVEN NEW INDUCTEES

The College recognized its 12th group of inductees into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor during an awards luncheon in June.

The 2009 additions are:

- Judy Kniffen Clardy, tennis, 1981-83;
- Richard Farris, football, 1959-60;
- Lee Ann Riley, basketball, 1980-82

and head coach, 1994-2000;

- David Rodriguez, basketball, 1947-49;
- Jack Sweeny, basketball, 1966-67;
- Robert Talkington, football, 1948-49;

and

- Scotti Wood, basketball, 1981-83.

The Circle of Honor was established in 1995 to honor former TJC student-athletes, coaches and special contributors to the athletic program who have excelled in athletics and made an impact on the lives of others.

Previous inductees into the Circle of Honor are: Floyd Wagstaff, football and basketball coach and athletic director; Brady P. Gentry, special contributor; James "Babe" Hallmark, football and football coach; Charlie McGinty, football and football coach; Billy Jack Doggett, basketball player and athletic director; Roy Thomas, basketball player and coach; Fred Kniffen, tennis coach; Robert Cox, tennis player and coach; Harry Bostic, Kelly Chapman, Herbert Richardson, O'Neal Weaver, James "Poo" Welch, Bonnie Buchanan Gray, Russell Boone, Janice Mulford, V.C. "Buck" Overall, Jose Palafox, Foster Bullcock, Van Samford, Milton Williams, Jesse Marshall, Robert Pack, Johnny Johnston, Jana Crosby Russell, Bryan Miller, Ardie D. Dixon, C.L. Nix, Evelyn Joe Troell Newman, basketball; Bill "Tiger" Johnson, David Lunceford, Jimmy Murphy,



2009 Circle of Honor inductees, left to right, are Judy Kniffen Clardy, Lee Ann Riley, Scotti Wood, Richard Farris, Robert Talkington, David Rodriguez and Jack Sweeney.

Mack Pogue, Jimmy Dickey, Leon Fuller, Bill Herchman, John Linney, Dan Page, Lawrence Strickland, Dwain Bean, Kenneth Bahnsen, Kenneth Coffey, Jack Murphy, Raymond McGallion, Gene Shannon, Charles Quilter, Royce Townsend, Earl Dotson, Jim Wright, Lloyd L. Pate and Robert "Bob" Price, football; Dessie M. Samuels, tennis.

## FOLLOW APACHE ATHLETICS ONLINE, WITH TWITTER, YOUTUBE

Just dying to know how the Apaches are doing in that basketball game, tennis match, soccer match or on the football field?

You have options.

The intercollegiate athletic office now regularly updates its Web site, [www.apacheathletics.com](http://www.apacheathletics.com), with scores and highlights. And, those updates are being fed to Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)).

If you're already using Twitter to connect with family and friends, just add Apache Athletics and the latest news about TJC games and matches will be sent to you, retrievable from portable devices such as an iPhone or BlackBerry.

"Twitter and YouTube are effective ways for TJC athletics to communicate the



twitter

You Tube

accomplishments and success of our athletic program to the world," said Dr. Tim Drain, director of intercollegiate athletics. "Through our Web site, we're also producing webcasts of our games and matches. Fans can either access live play-by-play or live scoring of many of our Apache athletic events."

The broadcasts are archived so fans can listen when it is convenient, he said.

On YouTube, fans will find videos of TJC athletic moments and even snippets from TJC graduates who have gone on to major universities or the pro's.

"Providing these services is important to our program. Having the capability to communicate to our fans immediately about rain delays, scores and personal and team achievements keeps our followers informed 24-7. And, when our graduates go on to compete at the next level, we enjoy being able to share their successes"

Drain said the College is also investigating the possibility of providing live Web video broadcasts on its site.



# Allied Health, Nursing Programs Flourishing

By Elise Mullinix  
Assistant Director  
Marketing & Public Information



PROMISE NO. 1: A QUALITY EDUCATION



When Josh Harrell had an ultrasound performed on him as a teen, little did he know that ultrasound technology would one day be his career.

"When I got out of high school," the Grand Saline native said, "I wanted to find a program I could get through quickly and allow me to jump right into a good career."

"I remembered having that ultrasound when I was a kid and looked into the radiology program at TJC first, then decided on sonography."

Upon graduating from TJC's diagnostic medical sonography program in December 2004, Harrell went right to work at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

Small classes and a small student-to-instructor ratio also rated high on Harrell's list of priorities.

"The people who run the sonography program are top-notch, and the program is like a small family," he said. "There are only 12 students allowed into the program at a time, so we all became very close-knit in a short period of time. And with three instructors, it was like having three moms watching over you throughout the program."

The TJC School of Allied Health and Nursing is home to 11 associate in applied science degrees and eight certificate programs and placement in each program is very competitive.

Paul Monagan, dean of the school of allied health and nursing, said, "People know that when they come out of the program they choose, the probability is high that they can go straight into a good-paying job."

### Associate Degree Nursing

TJC's associate degree nursing program accepts 44 new students each semester from a pool of more than 100 applicants and has a 95-percent passing rate on national board exams.

Its 87-percent graduation rate is the highest in the East Texas region and ranks



Dental hygiene students Christin Burgess, April Pemberton, Terri Sayers and Jennra Jontra represent the department at the Fall 2009 Student Activity Fair in September.

among the top three community college ADN programs in Texas.

### Dental Hygiene

TJC's dental hygiene program admits 24 freshmen students per year from an applicant pool of about 100. It typically has 47 students enrolled.

Dental hygiene students posted a

*"The people who run the sonography program are top-notch, and the program is like a small family ..."*

100-percent passing rate on their national board exams this past year, and have a 97-percent passing rate on the first attempt over the past five years. The program has a 100-percent job placement rate.

### Medical Sonography Program

The medical sonography program accepts 12 freshmen per year from an applicant pool of about 75. This program typically has 24 full-time students enrolled and offers a very popular advanced certificate option in vascular technology to its graduates. Last year's board passing rate was 96 percent.

### Emergency Medical Service Professions

The emergency medical service professions program is heavily supported by dedicated adjunct professors from the EMS/Fire communities. An EMSP initiative under development is a dual-enrollment basic program for high school seniors, which comprises 96 clinical hours in emergency rooms and ride time in area ambulances.

### Health Information Technology

The health information technology program, formerly known as medical records, is one of the first programs of its kind to be offered totally online. Since moving to this mode of delivery, enrollment has increased to its full capacity of 20 students. HIT faculty members also teach medical terminology courses that fill about 1200 seats per semester.

Last year's board passing rate and job placement rate was 100 percent.

### Human Services Addiction Counselor Training

The human services addiction counselor training program is designed to provide general and specific educational and training experiences to students intending

(continued on Page 31)



# 'Pow Wow' Attracting National Attention

By Kelly Prew  
Online Content Coordinator



PROMISE NO. 2: A VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE



Every successful idea, every event, every student at Tyler Junior College has a story, and it is the job of the Apache Pow Wow to tell them.

Students Kamren Thompson and Madison Payne were two of the Pow Wow team who contributed to the newspaper's recent nomination in the national Associated Press Newspaper Pacemaker contest — the first time in 20 years the publication has been nominated and the only Texas junior college to get a nod.

"I feel like we've already won," said Payne, a Pow Wow co-editor and chief. "It's all a big puzzle, each piece has a different job and it took all of us working together. I mean, we are a newspaper, and there are so many stories we could do, but we focus on the life of the student."

The contest is based on coverage, content, writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion page and other concepts such as design and photography.

"We are always trying to make sure we're targeting our audience appropriately," said Thompson, who also serves the newspaper as co-editor in chief and formerly its managing editor. "We try to cover things important to them, whether or not they realize it."

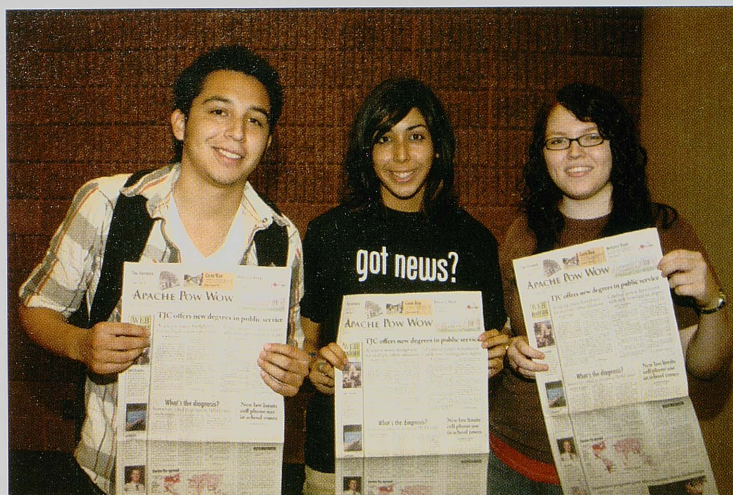
And although the nomination as one of 10 college newspapers recognized is exciting and validating, both Thompson and Payne agree the publication's success will continue as long as the staff stays dedicated and up to date with the media industry.

"We spend a lot of time here," Thompson said during a recent interview in the Pow Wow's production lab. "Choosing it as an extracurricular is time consuming, but it is addictive. This is the place to get your hooks into it, and when you're first on the beat, it is real journalism."

Both young women want to pursue the

career field after their tenure at TJC, and with each accomplishment, award or unsolicited student accolade, they're all that more driven.

"If you look at articles five or 10 years ago, it looks like it's not even from the same school," Payne said of the new and improved student newspaper. "It is 10 times more appealing, and to be honest, most all the feedback we get has been positive."



Pow Wow staff members Marco Maya, Teresa Ramirez and Kamren Thompson hold up the first issue of the Fall 2009 semester, featuring a new masthead.

"One instance I remember touched my heart. On campus one day, a student who was hearing impaired recognized me and made a gesture of opening up a newspaper. Then he gave me two thumbs up."

**"These students would not allow a less than superior product to leave this room."**

The Pow Wow is piloted by Journalism Department Chair Laura Krantz, who has spearheaded the new design and renaming.

"I always ask the students, 'Is this something you would read?'" and then teach them how to focus on being informative and how to make it interesting."

She said the Pow Wow largely is responsible for communication on campus and the staff takes on that role, encourag-

ing fellow students to regard the publication as a forum and to take ownership of their college newspaper.

In that vein, the online version of the publication [www.tjcnewspaper.com](http://www.tjcnewspaper.com) also has grown to include reader comments and student polling.

"I am thrilled we've been recognized on a national level," she said. "It's a lot of hard work and dedication to make the newspaper more than OK. It's fantastic!"

The Apache Pow Wow was the original name of the campus newspaper at its inception in 1927. In 1970, for reasons unknown, a vote was taken and the name changed to the TJC News.

"In the fall of 2007, I gave the students an option to change the name back to the original name, and they agreed," Krantz said. "It gives them ownership and is not so bland."

Krantz also said the newspaper has seen a significant increase in readership, which translates from 500 copies of each edition printed in 2007 to 3,000 coming off the presses today.

Despite the contributions Krantz made at the helm, she shrugs off personal commendations and attributes them to her staff of students who work tirelessly to produce the best newspaper possible.

"These students would not allow a less than superior product to leave this room," she said. "That is just something I don't have to worry about."

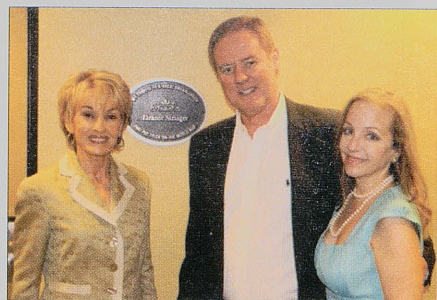
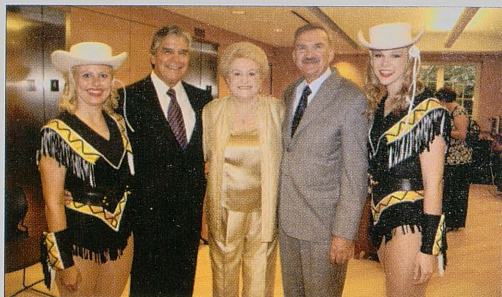
But Payne said Krantz deserves credit for guidance and commitment as well.

"We couldn't have done it without her," she said. "She is the first person we go to. As long as we're up here, she's up here. I have never had a teacher who has given so much to her students."

The staff was to learn their Pacemaker placement in late October.



# Mildred Stringer Lounge Dedication (Inside the Louise H. & Joseph Z. Ornelas Residential Complex.)



The Apache Belles and Belle Gold dedicated the Mildred A. Stringer Memorial Lounge in March, thanks to donations made in honor of the Belles' first director. Below are Belle Gold members and donors who made the lounge renaming possible. Also shown here are (clockwise): Belle alum and Belle Heritage Endowment contributor, Mary Lowe (center), with Belles living in the room honoring her time with the organization, (from left) Natalie Keller and Brittney Williams; Mr. Joseph Z. and Louise H. Ornelas with TJC President Dr. Mike Metke and Belles Abigail Wing (left) and Lindsey Lowery; Eleanor Stringer with son and TJC alum, Robert, and his wife, Desi; Belle Gold members (left to right) Delia "Dee" Darwin, Mary Lowe, Sara Miller, Glenda Meyers and Shirlee Gandy in front of Jenkins Hall; and Margaret Loftis, who led fundraising efforts to fund Mildred A. Stringer Memorial Lounge, with dedication plaque.



# TJC Botanical Gardens Preservation Series



The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club sponsored "Bulb Hunter: Adventures and Bulbs of the South," a Botanical Gardens Preservation Series event that featured Chris Wiesinger, president and owner of the Southern Bulb Company. Below, Wiesinger speaks to guests about the company, which is dedicated to recapturing and providing bulbs that thrive in warm southern climates. At right, visitors enjoy the newest addition to TJC Botanical Gardens, the James F. and Virginia H. Gatewood Garden, which is a study in various types of groundcover. Seated in the Ina Brundrett Azalea Garden, below right, are, from left, Virginia Gatewood, Chris Wiesinger, LaNelle Livezey and B.J. Riter.



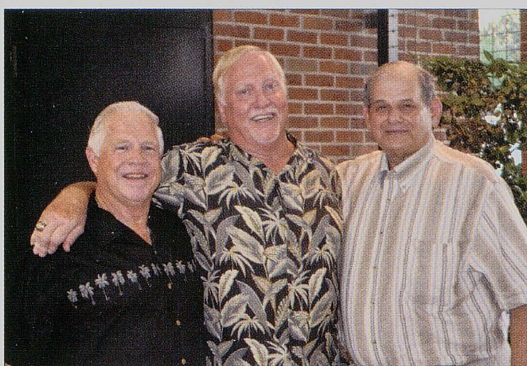


## TJC-Jacksonville LVN Celebration



TJC, the Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation, East Texas Medical Center and Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics celebrated the first graduating nursing class since a partnership was formed in Jacksonville in 2008. At left are TJC "heroes and friends" Jacksonville Economic Development Director Darrell Prcin; Jerry Massey, ETMC's senior vice president of affiliate operations; ETMC-Jacksonville Administrator Jack Endres; former TJC Board member and TMFHC physician Dr. Pat Thomas; Dr. Metke; TJC Dean of Allied Health & Nursing Paul Monagan; TMF Jacksonville Chief Administrative Officer Tom Cammack; and Jacksonville Mayor Robert Haberle. At right is Dr. Metke with District 2 State Sen. Bob Duell, M.D.

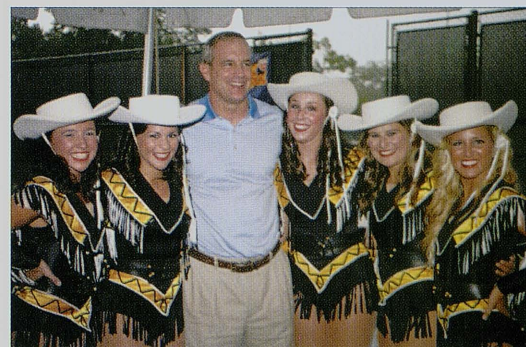
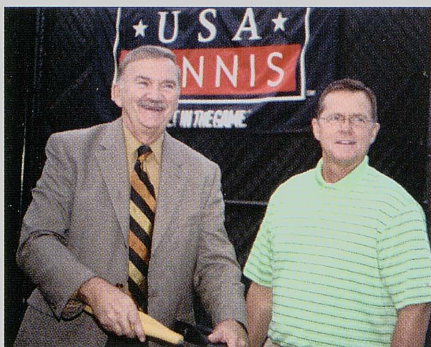
## 2009 Sports Circle of Honor Activities



The Sports Circle of Honor Barbecue served as a reunion for many former TJC athletes and families. At left are '08 inductee Bob Price, Robert Tucker and '09 inductee Richard Farris. At right are '97 inductee John Linney, Carolyn Murphy and Carolyn Kniffen with TJC Alumni Relations Director Betty Briggs.



## Louise Brookshire Community Tennis Complex Opening



Thanks to a generous gift from Brad and Ann Brookshire, new public tennis courts have been completed and dedicated in memory of Brad's grandmother, Louise. Even a steady rain didn't dampen the spirits of those attending the ceremony. Left to right are: TJC President Dr. Mike Metke and Board President Lonny Uzzell; Phil and Ellen Matthews with Mike and Donna Metke; Brad Brookshire with five Apache Belles after a special happy birthday wish; and the ceremonial ribbon-cutting with Uzzell, Board Member Peggy Smith, Brad and Ann Brookshire and their son, Clint, Board member Clint Roxburgh, Kirk Brookshire and Apache Belles Emma Schaaf, left, and Brianna Brigham, right.





1

A QUALITY EDUCATION.

2

A VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE.

3

COMMUNITY SERVICE.

# Scholarship Campaign Helping TJC Keep Its Promises

By Becca Anderson  
Contributing Writer





*prom-ise (prōm'is) n .1. A declaration assuring that one will or will not do something; vow. 2. Indication of future excellence or success.*

The dictionary defines promise as a vow that one will or will not do something. Promise is also an indication of future excellence or success.

Tyler Junior College is a place of promise in every sense of the word.

The College promises a quality education, vibrant student life, and service to the community. Those pledges are kept every day, and have been for more than 80 years. The results are evident in the quality of TJC's graduates, their successful transition to four-year universities or to the workforce, the pride with which they point to their years on the campus, and the contribution made to the community by the College's faculty, staff and students.

### ***Realities of our time***

More students enrolled at Tyler Junior College for the spring and fall semesters of 2009 than ever before. At the same time, the severe economic downturn suppressed endowment payouts that provide crucial scholarship funding for TJC students by \$350,000. With more than 40 percent of the College's students requiring some form of financial aid, that figure represents 250 TJC students who may not be able to attend because scholarships are simply not available.

The TJC Foundation Board partnered with the Tyler Junior College Board of Trustees and the TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors and, in March, launched the "Promises to Keep Scholarship" campaign to directly address the shortfall in scholarship funds.

A task force advisory committee for the campaign includes Kevin Fowler (TJC director of human resources), Martin Heines (TJC alum, TJC Foundation board member, of Martin Heines Properties), Janet

Hills (TJC alum, community volunteer), Micheal Lavender (TJC alum, senior VP of Firstbank), James Sheridan (TJC alum, TJC Alumni Association past president, Senior VP of Southside Bank), Idalia Trent (TJC chemistry professor) and EJ Unegbu (TJC alum, TJC coordinator for professional development.)

"Education is the driving force in our nation, and we must support this endeavor if our country is to remain strong and be competitive in a global marketplace,"

Sheridan said. "Education is one of the best investments we can make. The leaders of tomorrow need our support today."



**James Sheridan**

*"I never liked the idea of someone not going to college because of finances. This program encourages students to go, with assistance."*

While President Obama cited the importance of educational opportunities like those at TJC for the future of America and its workforce and intends to try to make funds available to community colleges, those eventual programs do not alleviate the financial stress placed on TJC today.

### ***Immediate use of funds***

Alumni, staff, faculty and community members recognize the important role scholarships play in keeping the TJC experience within the reach of many students, and have made committed pledges to the

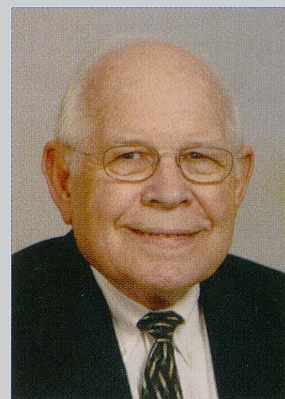
Promises to Keep campaign. Already, more than \$200,000 has been given or pledged toward the \$350,000 goal. Funds from the campaign benefit students enrolled for the fall 2009 or spring 2010 semesters.

Gene Branum has taught at Tyler Junior College for 40 years. As chair of the engineering and physical sciences department, he knows first-hand what the College's commitment to students achieved.

"TJC gives students the opportunity to get their feet on the ground. Some are not necessarily ready to go to a university, and so they benefit from the smaller classes and extra time faculty can spend with them. The College is also important to students who are returning to college who didn't have the opportunity to continue their education after high school, for whatever reason,"

Branum said.

Branum and his wife both are educators, and support TJC through pledges to scholarship campaigns and in other ways.



**Gene Branum**

"I never liked the idea of someone not going to college because of finances. This program encourages students to go, with assistance."

Though scholarships may be thought of as a fairly modern innovation in education, where TJC is concerned, they've always made a difference in the lives of TJC students' lives. Mary Castle Luehring graduated from Tyler High School in 1936, and could not have attended TJC if a scholarship was not been offered.

"I was fortunate to get the scholarship," she said. "It was a great honor. Mary Henderson and Mrs. R.W. Fair presented it to me. I was one of six children, and the

**(Continued on Page 32)**



# Foundation NEWS

## BAILEY ESTABLISHES NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

A scholarship endowment established by Blake Bailey is bound to be imaginative. The successful Tyler attorney is also a world traveler, action/adventure novelist and philosopher — to name a few of his interests.

Bailey has lived his entire life in Texas. He completed degrees at Texas Christian University and Baylor Law School. He has tried more than 150 jury trials and is passionate about justice, both in court and in the pages of his books.

The Blake Bailey Family Good Samaritan Trust Scholarship Endowment will make a positive impact on the community far into the future. Bailey chose Tyler Junior College for his endowment because of his respect for Dr. Aubrey Sharpe, TJC's dean of continuing studies.

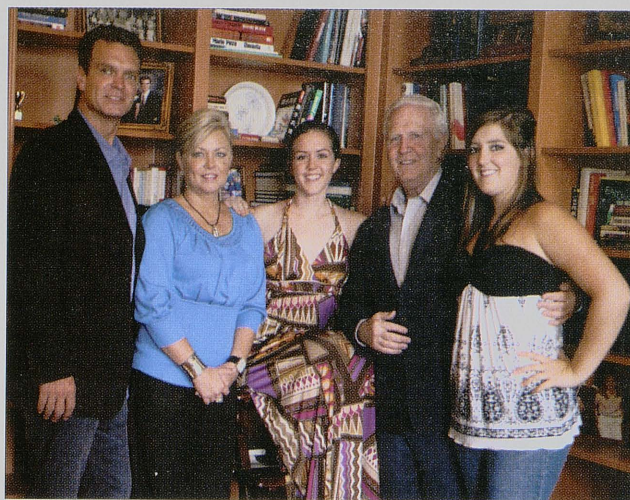
"He's very inspirational to me. His department prepares students for 21st century jobs. Young people need to be trained — and older people retrained — to handle these news jobs," he said.

The scholarship will go to students who demonstrate financial need but who are not eligible for Pell Grants. Preference will be given to those who intend to pursue a degree or certificate with a vocational education emphasis in an area conducive to the cutting edge demands of the modern workforce.

"Nursing is more challenging technically than ever before," Bailey said. "The guy who worked on my car recently knew more about computers than turning a wrench. Additional training is needed that was not available 10 years ago."

The successful candidate will also pledge to help another person in the future, with no requirement that the favor be passed on to someone else.

"A lot of students have high test scores



Blake Bailey with his son Blake, wife Carey and daughters Laura, left, and Katherine.

that enable them to get other scholarships," Bailey said. "This one is for a student who demonstrates work ethic, character and a vision of his or her own."

Bailey credits the idea to his enjoyment of the book *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo, and talking with friends. Though not a legally binding agreement, the pledge gives the scholarship a unique and open-ended benefit to society.

"It's a matter of moral compass," Bailey said. "I've had so much help in my life."

With this scholarship endowment, Blake Bailey has found a way to create heroes outside the pages of fiction.

## MEMORIAL EPPERSON GIFT TO BENEFIT TJC ATHLETES

John Herman Epperson lived his life the same way he played baseball: with skill, dedication, enjoying every minute and with one ear cocked for the sounds of victory at the end of the game. Through the John Herman Epperson Memorial Endowment, his influence and passion will go into extra innings at Tyler Junior College.

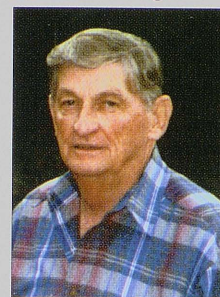
John descended from early Smith County settlers. Born in Tyler in 1927, he developed his life-long delight in baseball early. After graduating from Tyler High School in 1942, he played on a

semi-pro team for Bruce Motor Company. His speed and accuracy as a pitcher earned him the nickname, "Fireball." After serving as a Navy corpsman in World War II, he returned to Tyler and enrolled at TJC.

Wynelle Jones was an Apache Belle and worked in Mildred Stringer's office, when the handsome "older man" with the dangerous-sounding nickname began to frequent the office. Eventually they began to date,

and married in 1950. John completed a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree at East Texas Teachers College.

The two spent decades together at his company, Epperson Publications, but he never lost his infatuation with baseball. One son took up the game, and John was a fixture at the fence, calling out encouragement.



John Epperson

Wynelle lost John after 57 years of marriage, and sought a way to commemorate his life. A significant TJC endowment to benefit young men passionate about baseball seemed the perfect tribute. In a unique arrangement, the endowment will fund equipment and uniforms for baseball players at TJC and scholarships for outstanding athletes, with priority given to Smith County high school graduates.

"What you learn in sports follows you the rest of your life," Wynelle said. "It's when you're down and out, but you come through, you live life to the fullest. It's not the game; it's what you learn while you play it — giving and taking, accepting everyone, loyalty, perseverance."



## DAVID LUNCEFORD'S LEGACY HONORED WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

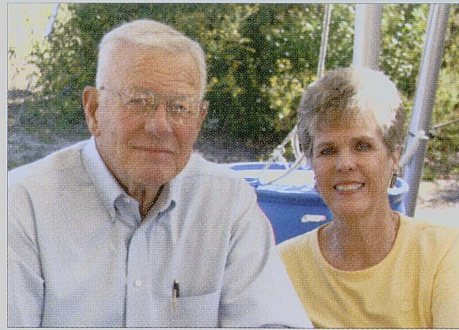
Successful people sometimes shake off the dust of their small hometowns when they reach the pinnacle of achievement. David Lunceford was a success by any standard — captain of the Tyler Junior College football team, named a Junior College All American in 1953, and he played professionally with the Chicago Cardinals. Later, he rose to become manager of marine operations for Exxon. He was honored as an outstanding TJC Alumnus and inducted into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor.

“But Dave never forgot where he came from,” said Nancy Lunceford, his wife of 54 years. “He grew up outside Van, Texas, and was always appreciative of what people did for him. He was from a poor family. There was never any pretense with him.”

David passed away in May 2009. Nancy created the David Lunceford Legacy Scholarship to benefit Van High School students attending TJC and participating in one of the college's extracurricular programs. The Luncefords' gifts created two Legacy Scholarships, in addition to the W. Belton and Virginia Duckett Endowed Scholarship in honor of her parents and the Wiley Woodrow Jenkins Endowed Scholarship that honors a much-loved history teacher. Former TJC Trustee Harold Beard established an additional Legacy Scholarship in David's honor.

“Scholarships were Dave's way to keep his fingers in the pie and help other students the way he'd been helped. What better way to support the community than to support students who will become part of it?” Nancy said.

People gravitated to Lunceford, a fine Christian man. He preferred hugs to



**David and Nancy Lunceford**

handshakes, and no one he met was a stranger for long. He embraced people by being interested in them and doing what he could to help those from a background like his own. The advice he gave his own children extends to scholarship recipients today: “Make your parents proud. You know what the right thing is, so do it. Study hard, go to class and take advantage of this opportunity.”

David Lunceford worked hard at every opportunity that came his way. His legacy is passing the same along to others following in his big, friendly footsteps.

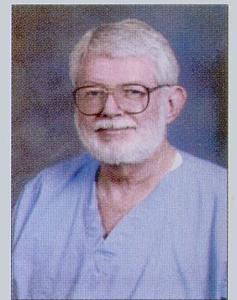
## GIFT CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FOR RADIOLOGY STUDENTS

When John Graham Short was born in Tulsa, Okla. in 1937, his parents had big dreams for him. He exceeded those dreams by graduating from Lamar University at 20 and from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, with an M.D. degree at 24. An internship, family practice, time in the Air Force and a fellowship in neuroradiology positioned Short to excel.

He managed to be both a successful physician and an outstanding human being. It was friends, colleagues and former students who approached the Short family with the idea of honoring Dr. Short's memory with a \$25,000 scholarship endowment at Tyler Junior College. The fund they built will benefit students in perpetuity.

“John was my friend and mentor, and became my father-in-law,” said Dr. Hope Short. “I loved him dearly and miss him a lot. He was highly intelligent, yet humble and thoughtful. He listened intently and would make time to talk — about a procedure or a career issue. Recipients of his scholarship should strive for excellence and not be scared to pursue their dreams.”

Kent Walker was one of Dr. Short's partners. “He was a mentor of the medical community in Tyler, and the first neuroradiologist in East Texas. He enjoyed the cerebral part of radiology. He had a keen insight into people, and his humor was legendary. We still repeat ‘Johnisms.’



**John Short, M.D.**

He wanted technologists to learn to think for themselves and become part of the medical process, not just push buttons on a machine.”

“He cared enough about the quality of the work of those around him to speak up and affect change,” said Nathan Stallings, chair for TJC's radiologic technology department, who met Dr. Short when he entered radiology school in 1991. “He would announce to the sophomore class that he expected them to know enough to be responsible for their actions, and he would hold them to that standard.”

The scholarship is open to those who apply and are accepted into the TJC radiology technology program, with priority consideration given to students who graduated from a high school in Smith County.

For information on how to establish an endowed scholarship at TJC, call the TJC Foundation at 903-510-2382 or visit [www.tjc.edu/foundation](http://www.tjc.edu/foundation).



# TJC Students Begin Annual Service in Costa Rica

By Fred M. Peters  
Director, Marketing & Public Information



PROMISE NO. 3: COMMUNITY SERVICE



When TJC President Dr. Mike Metke helped a community in Costa Rica come together to improve their lives in the 1960s, it didn't take him long to realize that he was as much a recipient as anyone.

Since then, he has spent a lot of time remembering those days as Peace Corps volunteer and wondering how he can not only help residents of the region even more but how he can spread the benefits of human service to other young people in the U.S.

So, it wasn't exactly a surprise when Spanish Professor and Foreign Language Department Chair John Hays - also a former Peace Corps volunteer - reacted with enthusiasm at plans for a TJC student service project in Costa Rica.

Although Metke had made numerous visits to the region to confirm lifestyle improvements over the years, returning with a group of students to work with local residents would take the Peace Corps mission to another level.

*"These students blew me away with their efforts, research and what they have produced ..."*

In May, Hays and Metke led a work crew of nine students and four instructors to the Guanacaste mountain range, familiar territory for the TJC president.

It was as much a triumphant return to a monumental stage in his own life as it was an investment in the future of today's students.

"This was really returning to a service project that began with the Peace Corps," Metke said. "Seeing our students and how they reacted made me feel proud and it gave me the opportunity to experience once again the pleasure of service work. The students were exhausted at the end of each day but it was a satisfying tired

and you could see that on their faces," Metke said.

The service trip provided a meaningful vacation for the students, many of whom studied Spanish at TJC. Travelers paid to participate in the trip, although five students applied for and were the recipients of scholarships. Scholarship funding was approved by a student oversight committee that determines appropriate use of funds from a TJC student activity fee. Covered in the travel fee were air fare, lodging, bus travel and several meals.

While much of their journey was purely recreational, the group's time in Costa Rica began with two days devoted to serving others.

Not far from where Metke and approximately 20 local villagers built a school and a road in the 1960s, TJC students painted and lacquered at two public schools. At another one-room high school, two TJC students joined biology professor Dr. Betsy Ott in providing English lessons.



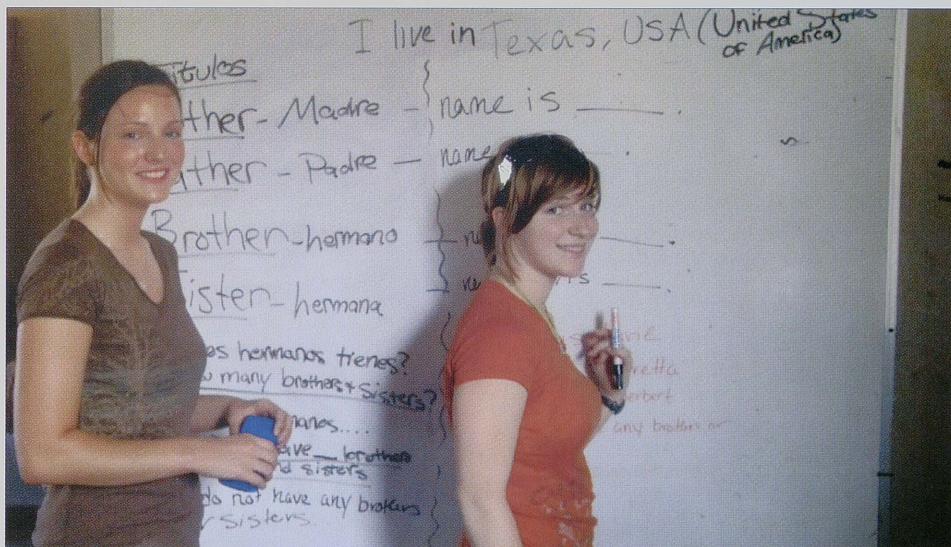
The TJC service teams were met at the Liberia airport and transported to the Curubanda Lodge

"I couldn't be more pleased and more proud of our students and faculty," Metke said. "I thought all along we have the best faculty and this just confirms it. They were such great role models and represented TJC in such an outstanding manner."

The mission of the Peace Corps is to "bring the experience home," Metke said. "I know our students got a lot in return for their efforts. So many service projects are life changing. It was nice for them to relate to other students and understand how much alike we all are."

Metke said he was also touched by the kind words of residents and school officials.

(continued on Page 24)



Marie Sharp and Casey Phillips take a break for a photo during an English lesson at the middle school in Quebrada Grande.



“When Marvin Ruiz (principal at Escuela Dos Ríos) talked about how for years and years they had wanted to paint and improve the school but that they simply hadn’t had the money to invest in paint and supplies, it made me feel good about the donations we were able to make with the help of others who contributed to the project here in Tyler.”

Initially, Metke had hoped that service projects TJC students participated in would be at Las Lilas, a homestead where he had helped organize a school board and town council, which led to community projects such as the school building.

However, construction permits for a new classroom at the school were not acquired in time. Metke and other TJC representatives visited with

Las Lilas residents twice during the trip, taking donated school supplies and clothing and discussing arrangements for TJC students to help with the classroom construction next year.

“The people of Las Lilas take such pride in their school. It is the focal point of their community. The mothers of the students sweep the classroom porches and pull weeds and plant flowers. They have made their school a terrific example of teamwork. I really hope we can return there and help their school next year,” he said.

Helping schedule the alternative service projects – painting and trim work and instructional service learning at a high school in Quebrada Grande – was Wilberth Brizuela Chavarria, a local dairyman whose Curubanda Lodge served as a project headquarters and provided overnight quarters for the TJC work teams.

Chavarria identified a long-awaited exterior paint project at Escuela Dos Ríos for six TJC crew members and exterior

and interior painting at a middle school in Quebrada Grande for five others.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ott and two students helped lead English lessons at nearby El Consuelo high school.

Casey Phillips, a Spanish major who aspires to be a translator one day, was

pleased to have the opportunity to work in the classroom. “We’ve had a language barrier, obviously, but I think we’ve been able to communicate,” she said during a break in classes. “We’ve taught them some English words: parts of the body, description of jobs and careers. They asked a lot of questions.

It was a very good experience.”

Casey, Dr. Ott and student Marie Sharp said they were surprised to find so many students in one classroom yet participat-



**A team that included the TJC travel group tries to keep up with middle and high schoolers in a soccer match.**



**Elementary school students in Las Lilas are excited to explore contributions of clothing and school supplies brought to the school by the TJC travel project group.**

ing in different classes being led by four different instructors.

El Consuelo English teacher Eugenia Arias, cousin to Oscar Arias, the current President of Costa Rica, said the small building is certainly not an ideal situation and that she is glad the town is preparing to construct a new high school just down the road.

“Some days it is very difficult to work here. It can be difficult for our students to concentrate and some of our students face a lot of challenges to stay in school. They are happy today to have the students (from TJC) here to help,” she said.

Less than a mile away, at the middle school, other TJC students worked side by



**Soccer players gather for a group photo after the match.**



*"This is a once in a lifetime experience for these students. They're never going to forget this."*

side with Costa Rican students, painting exterior and interior walls.

"I like doing things for other people," said Zoe Winter of Nacogdoches.

"The service part of the trip was one of the reasons I wanted to come," said Mandi Melot of Comanche. "I like being able to help people and especially because I plan to be a teacher some day, helping the kids here at a school, in particular, is nice."

John "Red" Wilford of Neches said the service component was a plus and that he hopes TJC continues to offer international service projects. "I would have come anyway but getting to help with a service project was good. I'd definitely do it again."

Hays and Metke immediately went to work planning a return service project for 2010.

A Tyler-based construction firm was approached and expressed interest in going

to Las Lilas to build the library the school so desperately needs.

Representatives from the construction firm will travel to Costa Rica in November, accompanied by Metke and Brian Turman, TJC director of campus services.

"We hope this will be the beginning of an ongoing service program for the region that will allow our students to assist Peace Corps efforts in the areas of health education and city beautification," Hays said.

Hays is now fielding inquiries for the 2010 service project, which will provide TJC students and faculty to help finalize the new library. A group of about 15 students and faculty will travel to the region in time to finish the library and participate in a community ribbon cutting and celebration.

"It was a really awesome experience,"



Many students travel to class at La Escuela Las Lilas by horseback.

said Misty Rhodes who helped paint at Escuela Dos Rios. Rhodes recently took part in a reception on the TJC main campus in October. The College scheduled the event to introduce which Wilberth Brizuela Chavarria to the TJC community, discuss the 2009 work project and generate interest in the 2010 work.

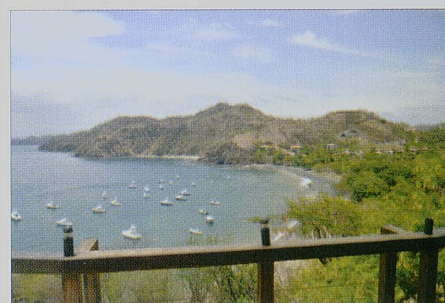
"This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these students," said Dr. Deborah Kelley, a psychology professor whose husband Rodney accompanied her. "They're never going to forget this and neither will we."

## *Join Apache Adventurers in a Trip to Costa Rica, May 9 - 16, 2010*

The TJC Alumni Association will escort a group of Apache Adventurers to Costa Rica in May 2010, to witness the completion of a service project assisted by TJC students and faculty and to tour the northern regions of the country.

The trip will include flight, ground transportation, hotel accommodations and participation in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at a new library built for students in the village of Las Lilas.

To learn more, visit the TJC Alumni Association Web site, [www.tjc.edu/alumni](http://www.tjc.edu/alumni) or call Betty Briggs at 903-510-2371.



A view from El Ocotal, one of the beach resorts along the Pacific coast of northern Costa Rica.



Students and faculty will work to finalize a library that will be built between the two classroom buildings shown here at Las Lilas.



# Alumni NEWS

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HANDS DOWN THREE AWARDS

The TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors announced three awards honoring outstanding individuals for their support and contributions to TJC.

Recipients are selected for their contributions to society, the college, and/or their life's work, thus bringing honor to Tyler Junior College.

Billie Hartley is the year's Distinguished Alumni Award; Carmin Marie Biggs was selected as the Valuable Young Alumnus; and Thomas and Heather Mensch were selected for the Apache Spirit Award.

### **Billie Hartley** **Distinguished Alumni Award**

**Billie Hartley** was born the fourth of five children and grew up in a small community near Tyler. She graduated valedictorian of her class of 13 but felt she was under-prepared for college. She had seen the beautiful TJC campus and watched the Apache Belles perform and she knew that is where

she wanted to go. She says she did not realize just how under-prepared she was until she began her classes, but under the guidance of

her teachers, she found her first college experience to be exciting and wonderful. She became a Belle and performed so well academically that she was invited to join Phi Theta Kappa, the academic honor society. She proudly says that her life re-



**Billie Boyd Hartley**

ally began when she became a student at TJC, and thanks to great teachers like Jean Browne and Mildred Stringer, she became a confident scholar.

After graduating, Billie transferred to a four-year college where she earned her bachelor's degree with a double major in education and business.

Billie has been very active in the Tyler community and has held many leadership roles over the years including: co-chair of the Symphony League Ball, coronation chair of the Texas Rose Festival, vice president in charge of the Ladies Activities for the Texas Rose Festival, president of the Marion Wilson Garden Club and president of the Tyler Rose Museum. She is also a member of the Cowan Center Advisory Board, the Women's Symphony League, Tyler Women's Forum, the Texas Rose Festival, the TJC Foundation and Marvin Methodist Church.

She has received numerous awards, including: Exemplary Leadership in the Arts, Texas College, and The Women of Distinction, New Days Ministry. She was co-recipient with Mr. Hartley for the T. B. Butler Award, Tyler's Most Outstanding Citizen; East Texas Communities Foundation Philanthropy Award, and the Flame of Excellence Award, All Saints Episcopal School.

After the death of their only son Pat, Billie and her husband Bill honored Pat's memory by donating his trust funds to TJC to establish the Pat Hartley Soccer facilities. Billie thinks of her son daily and is comforted that his life continues to touch the lives of others at TJC and is helping them build a brighter future, just as her future was so positively influenced so many years ago.

### **Carmin Marie Biggs** **Valuable Young Alumnus Award**

**Carmin Marie Biggs** is a news producer at WABC-TV Channel 7 in New York, the top-rated local news station in the country. She has been producing the highest rated weekend morning show in New York for more than two years. She previously served as a producer at KTRK, in Houston. Carmin got her start in television producing at KLTU Channel 7 in Tyler. Her KLTU show won the first Emmy in the station's history. She worked in Tyler five years before her move to Houston.

Carmin received her associate's degree in fine arts from TJC and graduated summa cum laude.

She was busy at TJC and was involved in many student activities. She was the vice president of the Student Senate, reporter for Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of the English Honor Society and was freshmen president of the Baptist Student Ministry. She also edited for the *Touchstone* literary magazine and won first place in the state competition for speech to entertain with Las Mascaras.

While at TJC, Carmin got her first television internship at KLTU 7. She wrote and edited sports stories and helped gather information for the Friday Night Football Show. She also spent the summer after her freshman year interning for the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.



**Carmin Marie Biggs**

(continued on next page)



# Alumni NEWS

Carmin received her bachelor's degree in journalism from New York University, graduating with honors.

While at NYU, Carmin interned for ABC Sports, World News Tonight, 20/20 and PrimeTIME. She also reported for the NYU radio and television stations as well as produced and anchored two of her own half-hour radio shows.

Carmin lives in Manhattan's Upper West Side and says she enjoys the many benefits that the "Big Apple" life has to offer. Carmin appreciates the opportunities, mentors and support from her family and friends in her journey and looks forward to the future.

## ***Tom & Heather Mensch Apache Spirit Award***

Tom, originally from Bellefonte, PA, is the director of bands and instructor of trombone at Tyler Junior College. He coordinates the Apache Marching Band, conducts the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Trombone Ensemble and teaches applied trombone lessons. During his tenure, he has been the steward over the band programs' tremendous growth as it has become one of the largest two-year collegiate band programs in the country, with more than 200 members.

Before coming to TJC, he served as director of bands at Robert E. Lee High School for a year and as associate director for three years.

He is an active performer on tenor trombone with the Rose City Brass Quintet, the Rose City Trombone Quartet, the East Texas Jazz Orchestra, and is a freelance musician, performing throughout East Texas. As a member of the Metro Big Band, he performed in Japan, Guatemala, Russia, Ukraine and Finland. He has also

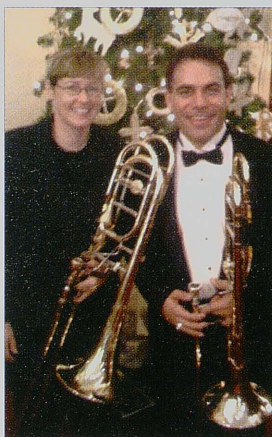
performed with other bands, orchestras and symphonies, including the Tyler Big Band.

Tom earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Pennsylvania State University in 1996 and a master's degree in trombone performance from Stephen F. Austin State University.

He is a member of The Texas Music Educators Association, the International Trombone Association, the College Band Directors National Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association, and Phi Mu Alpha

Heather, serves as assistant director of bands, is a professor of jazz studies and applied low brass, including bass trombone, euphonium, and tuba. She conducts both TJC jazz ensembles and assists with the Apache Marching Band. She received a bachelor's degree in bass trombone performance from the University of Kentucky and her Master's in Education from Houston Baptist University. Before coming to TJC, she served as assistant band director at Moore MST Magnet School, assistant band director at Chapel Hill Middle School and assistant band/choir director at Lamar High School in Houston.

She also actively performs with and manages the Rose City Brass Quintet, and is bass trombonist with the East Texas Jazz Orchestra, the Rose City Trombone Quartet and the Colonial Hills Baptist Church Orchestra. Heather has performed with numerous symphonies and orchestras.



**Tom and Heather Mensch**

Her most recent professional performing experiences come from traveling the globe with the Metro Big Band, a professional Christian band that is hand selected from performers from around the United States. With this band, Heather had the opportunity to perform concerts and master classes in Japan, Guatemala, Russia, the Ukraine and Finland.

She is currently the treasurer for the Texas Jazz Educators Association and has served as the All-state Jazz Coordinator for the Texas Community College Band Directors Association.

In 2008, she was selected one of four finalists in a nationwide search for the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors Bass Trombone professional performing position.

She is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association, the International Trombone Association, the International Tuba Euphonium Association, and the Texas Jazz Educators Association.

Heather says she enjoys the opportunity TJC gives her to work with quality people who care about the students. "I'm truly lucky to make a living teaching a subject I am passionate about," she said. "My greatest thrill is that my husband and I get to work side by side to minister to our students. We aren't just band directors or teachers."

**Are you receiving the TJC  
Alumni Association's electronic  
newsletter,**

**"Blast from the Past"?**

**If not, contact Betty Briggs at  
903-510-2371 or [bbri@tjc.edu](mailto:bbri@tjc.edu).**



# Alumni NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENT AMY MCCULLOUGH

I recently attended my 30th high school reunion and it was so entertaining to visit with old friends and acquaintances about where life has taken us over the decades.

Although it is impossible to recount specific daily activities and mundane chores to which we fall victim, I cherish the major events and lifelong friends that have shaped my life—marriage, children, career choices, and, of course, those college days at Tyler Junior College and beyond.

I am a 1981 graduate of TJC, and at 48, as my vision begins to blur, I am amazed and even tickled by the detailed and clear memories I have of my time spent on the beautiful TJC campus. It was a transition period when plans and promises were made. My plans carried me through graduation at three other colleges and universities but none influenced my life more than TJC. For that reason, I am honored to serve as the 2009-10 president of the TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The unsettling economic climate that we as Americans face today demands that our young people make choices that will serve them well in the future. Time, effort, and resources are at a premium and must be used prudently to ensure their success 30 years hence. TJC offers such a choice with its excellent leadership, faculty, staff and facilities. Alumni also play a major



Amy McCullough

role in our students' success. Funds raised through membership dues in the TJC Alumni Association provide scholarships for our students. We are also continuing our "Promises to Keep" campaign so that students who have anticipated financial assistance, and those who particularly deserve it, can make plans of their own without hesitation.

Like those of us who have aged several years since our days on campus, so also have the facilities that keep the school operating. Serious infrastructure repairs are long overdue and essential in order to preserve the functionality and loveliness for which TJC is famous. Our trustees have taken on this challenge and I hope you will join me in supporting their efforts.

As alumni, you can help the young people in your lives make good choices as they chart their courses for life. One of my choices was TJC and it continues to bless me even today. I hope you will join us in the Alumni Association this year, get involved and take advantage of the wonderful benefits it allows. We have alumni chapters in New York City, Los Angeles and throughout Texas. I look forward to serving as your president. Thank you for this privilege and please let me know if I can help you make a choice or keep a promise at TJC.

*Amy studied theater and music at TJC and was a member of Harmony and Understanding and Las Mascaras. After graduation, she received a B.F.A. in theatre from the University of Mississippi and an M.F.A. in theater from the University of Oklahoma. She graduated from South Texas College of Law and practiced law in the Houston area before moving to California in 2001. She lives in Tyler with husband, David and sons, Alex and Hayden.*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES BOARD MEMBERS

The TJC Alumni Association welcomes new Board members this fall.

### Amy Bland Cunningham, '90

Amy is a lifelong resident of Tyler. At Tyler Junior College, she was a member of the Apache Belles and Phi Theta Kappa. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from UT Tyler. Amy has worked for Coca-Cola Enterprises for 16 years and is currently an account executive specializing in marketing assets and education channels in the Dallas/Fort Worth Market Unit.



Amy Cunningham

She has served on the board of directors for Junior Achievement, volunteered as a loaned executive for United Way of Tyler/Smith County, is a graduate of Leadership Tyler's Class 13 and is currently a member of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Contact Club.

Her hobbies include travel, golf and spending time with her family. She and husband Jim ('87) have one daughter, Aspen Brooke.

(continued on next page)

The TJC Alumni Association invites you to leave a TJC memory on the Apache Guestbook. Just visit [www.tjc.edu/alumni](http://www.tjc.edu/alumni)



# Alumni NEWS

## ***Diane Dickerson Hawkins, '85***

Diane is a lifelong resident of Tyler. As a TJC student, she served as editor of the *TJC News* and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from UT Tyler. Diane works in graphic communications at Marvin United Methodist Church and as sales and marketing manager for Dunn Transmissions, Inc., a family business.



**Diane Hawkins**

She is an active volunteer in many ministries through her church. Diane and husband Terry ('85) live in Tyler.

## ***Stephanie Rigdon-Arriola, '99***

Stephanie is a graduate of Arp High School and enrolled at Tyler Junior College in fall 1996. While attending Tyler Junior College she was an active member of the Apache Band, playing clarinet under the direction of Ronald Todd. In 1997, she began working in the band office as a secretary, where she assisted in the daily functions of the band.



**Stephanie Rigdon-Arriola**

In December 2002, she graduated with her bachelor's degree from UT Tyler and began teaching. In June 2005, Stephanie came back to Tyler Junior College, where she is currently an academic advisor for the School of Applied Studies. She is married and has two sons.

## ***James "Doc" Deason, '96***

Doc, born and raised in East Texas, is a graduate of Lindale High School and a proud former member of the famous Apache Punch Drumline. After TJC, he earned his bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and received his meteorology certificate from Mississippi State University.



**'Doc' Deason**

In 2000, he joined the weather staff at KETK (Channel 56), the NBC affiliate in Tyler. In 2002 Doc moved to Abilene, heart of "Tornado Alley," where he covered everything from tornadoes and grapefruit size hail to dust storms and thunder snow.

Doc was voted "Favorite Local Weathercaster" in 2003. In 2004, Doc came back home and served as chief meteorologist at CBS-19 until 2007, when he left to pursue his real estate license. He is currently a full-time realtor at E.R.A. Five Star Real Estate Services and a meteorologist at CBS-19. He is married to Alissa Kirkley.

## **TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors, 2009-10**



The TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors is: Amy McCullough, President; James Sheridan, Past-President; Gay Smith, President-Elect; Jon Jacobs, Executive Secretary; Stephanie Arriola; Carol Beggs; Dean Cagle; Joe Carlyle; John Chance; Amy Cunningham; 'Doc' Deason; Christy Evans; Jose Feliciano; Diane Hawkins; Kenneth Lewis; Margaret Loftis; James Smith; Nancy Stewart; Roy Sulser; Eunice Chancellor (Advisory Board); Nancy Lunceford (Advisory Board); Shirley Mallory (Advisory Board); Emma Lou Prater (Advisory Board); Herb Richardson (Advisory Board); Maxene Robinson (Advisory Board); John Stephenson (Advisory Board); Betty Briggs (Treasurer/Ex-Officio); and Dr. Kim Russell (Ex-Officio).



# Alumni NEWS

## Students to Alumni Representatives Scholars



This year's STARs (Students to Alumni Representatives) scholarship recipients for 2009-10 are L-R, front row: Caitlin Foster (Top Ten Recipient), Daniel Salinas, Elise Dodson, Amanda Duke, and Bridget Richardson. Second Row: Kallie Murphy, Brittany Byers (Legacy), Megan Richardson, Beth Glass, Laci Butler, and Meredith Smith. Third row: Russell Slyvester, Alyssa Slyvester, Hayley Jacobs (Dean's), Peyton Lilly (Legacy), Joey McClain and Cody Schwark. STARs not pictured: Ashley Gentry and Christina Walker (annual scholarship).

## TJC Alumni Association's Austin Chapter Holds Reunion



The Austin chapter of the TJC Alumni Association met at the Driskill Hotel in the spring. The Austin chapter also welcomed Tyler Area alumni who were in Austin with the Tyler Chamber of Commerce for Tyler Days in Austin.



### Promise 1: Health Careers continued

dency Counselors (LCDC) in Texas. The program develops the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for a student to become a certified trainee. Currently, there are 42 students in this major.

### Medical Laboratory Technology

Medical laboratory technologists perform a wide range of tests to analyze blood and other fluids using the latest in biomedical instruments to generate accurate, reliable test results. The MLT Program has 22 students enrolled. Last year's board passing rate was 90 percent. The program is also home to the popular phlebotomy certificate program.

### Radiologic Technology

Boasting a 100 percent passing rate for first-time test takers since 2002, the TJC radiologic technology program can afford to be choosy about its applicant pool. The class average on last year's exam placed TJC graduates in the 92nd percentile of the nation. Last year, the program had 85 applicants for 28 available seats. Presently, a combined total of 47 freshmen and sophomores attend. Program completers will have approximately 1,800 hours of clinical experience ranging from routine radiography to advanced areas including interventional studies, CT and magnetic resonance imaging.

### Respiratory Care

The respiratory care program has had a 100 percent job placement rate over the past three years. Its graduates work with everyone from the premature infants to the elderly. Respiratory therapists interact and learn directly from about 25 different physicians during their training and will spend time with up to 300 different patients as a part of their supervised clinical experience.

## Salary Ranges for First Year of Employment

Dental Hygienist: \$46,000	Respiratory Therapist: \$40,000-51,000
EMT Paramedic: \$30,000 – 51,000	Surgical Technologist: \$24,000-31,000
RN: \$37,000 – 45,000	Medical Sonographer: \$38,000-52,000
Licensed Optician: \$15,000 – 32,000	Health Information Tech.: \$25,000 – 30,000
MLT: \$26,000 – 41,000	Addiction Counselor: \$25,000 – 30,000
Radiologic Technologist: \$37,000-43,000	LVN: \$31,000-37,000

### Surgical Technology

The surgical technology program is a highly respected program in a critical health profession: surgery. The fully accredited program recently increased its capacity from 12 to 16 students per year. These students may be involved with the care of up to 300 patients in their busiest clinical semester.

### Vocational Nursing Education

The 12-month vocational nursing education program is a heavy contributor to increased enrollment at the College. It conducts a day shift and an evening shift schedule that now serves 200 students per year. The last reported board passing rate was 91 percent, with 100 percent job placement.

The VNE program students and faculty contribute more than 3,000 service-hours in fall 2008 as they assisted the victims of hurricanes Gustav and Ike on TJC's main campus with care and compassion.

### Vision Care Technology

The vision care technology program is led by Steve Robbins and Tracy Gould and is located at the West Campus.

The new Apache Optical shop recently opened on the second floor of Vaughn Library on the main campus. Apache Optical has drawn new clients for our students to serve and is exposing more students to this career field option.

### Jacksonville and Lindale

The associate degree nursing and vocational nurse education programs serve as the College's anchor programs at TJC-Jacksonville. Both programs are enrolled to capacity.

At TJC-Lindale, 20 students began studies in a brand new licensed vocational nursing program this fall. The new program coincided with the addition of a full-time site manager and the expansion of the site to include two separate suites at the Identity Center shopping complex.

The TJC School of Allied Health and Nursing has full programmatic accreditation or approvals from 10 national and state agencies that require an evidence-based self-study followed by a site visit with continued reports of progress for each program.

Graduates take national certification examinations that allow for measured success using objective external criteria.

Each program has an advisory committee that provides constructive feedback from industry and graduates.

Job placement rates are another indicator of program accountability and are measured by each program annually. Placement rates are excellent with a broad majority of graduates finding employment immediately.

These accountability standards help maintain high levels of performance expected by the public and the College's health care partners.



## "Promises to Keep" continued

financial help was very important in the decision as to whether I would continue on to college."

Luehring did well at TJC. "I was made a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Omicron Chapter. I was also president of the Women's Athletic Association."

She went on to Texas State College for Women and graduated with a degree in 1941. She taught home economics at Hearne High School.

"I am sure Tyler Junior College is much bigger now,

but it was an outstanding college then," she said. "For me, it was an excellent transition from high school to Texas State College for Women."



Mary Luehring

Mary Castle

met an Air Force officer, Dale Luehring, while she was teaching, and they were married in 1942. They've spent 67 happy years together and her husband's career took them all over the world.

After 27 years in the Air Force, Dale Luehring spent many years as the general manager of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Mary supported him throughout his career wherever they lived.

"My scholarship to Tyler Junior College played a big part in making all of this possible," she said.

Scholarships have been making dreams and destinies come true for students since the founding of the college.

### *The work is never done*

It might be easy to conclude that previous fundraising initiatives have all the funds necessary to provide scholarships for the foreseeable future.



Jennifer Moore

But as Branum points out, "It's one of those things where the work is never completed. The students we helped in the past have gone on and hopefully been successful. New students are coming in all the time, though. I know there are lots of places to give money, but we can never give too much to educate our youth."

Jennifer Moore is one of many recent students helped by a scholarship.

"I think it's one the best investments you can make in someone's life," she said of the Presidential Scholarship she received.

In 2007, Moore graduated as valedictorian from Chapel Hill High School. She had always planned to go to a four-year university, but during her first orientation at her chosen school, she was discouraged when she was told her study goals were too ambitious. Rather than persist in her chosen path, she reconsidered and chose to attend TJC instead, since she had been offered two scholarships.

"TJC became another home to me," she said. "Teachers are always willing to help you, even talk to you if you're not sure what you want to do with your life. Classes are small, and there's never a strange face on campus. It was a great experience. It means so much to me that someone invested in my education."

While attending Tyler Junior College, Moore maintained a 4.0 grade-point average and received the Mary Martha Fair Presidential Scholarship and the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship. Upon gradua-

tion, she was recognized with the Austin P. Turner Award of Excellence, which provided funding for her continued studies at the university level.

Sheridan agrees wholeheartedly about the importance of giving to help others academically.

"Individual donors must decide where their funds are best invested," he said.

"TJC is one of the best investments they can make because funds given now will impact the lives of the students today, and continue to pay dividends as they enter the workplace in the future. Investing in people provides a lifetime return."

Mitch Andrews, director of principal gifts for the TJC Foundation, said the campaign has drawn the interest of graduates, friends of the College and faculty and staff.

*"I think it is one of the best investments you can make in someone's life."*

"One of the benefits our faculty and staff see is that their gifts now can impact students who are on our campus today and they can nominate students they believe to have particular need and commitment," he said.

Nominations will be forwarded to the TJC Scholarship Committee, which will make award decisions.

To participate in the Promises to Keep Scholarship campaign, simply remove the inserted envelope contained in this edition of the Apache, complete the enrollment form, and return to the TJC Foundation.

If you would like further information about the campaign, contact the TJC Foundation at 903-510-2382 or visit: [www.tjc.edu/foundation](http://www.tjc.edu/foundation).



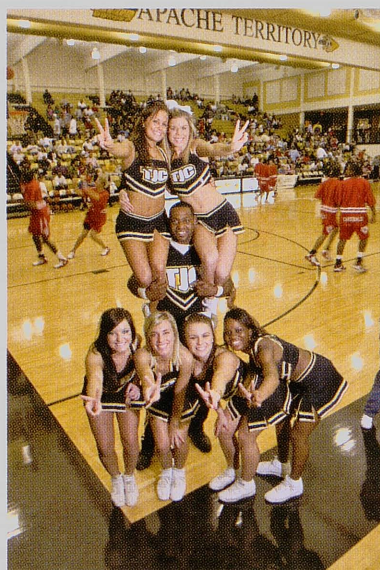


# The Three Promises of Tyler Junior College.

1

## *A quality education.*

Our courses are taught by faculty who chose their profession not to do research but because they have a passion for helping others learn. Our student-to-teacher ratio is 20:1, giving students their best chance at success.



2

## *A vibrant student life.*

Research has proven that an active student is a successful one. At TJC, performance groups, athletics, music, band, drama and a wide array of student organizations provide the full college experience.



3

## *Community service.*

We're the community's college. We expect our faculty, staff and students to pitch in wherever possible to help others. By losing oneself in service to others, connections are made that improve our lives and the understanding of our places in society.



# TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



CHANGING LIVES





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